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# Advocate of Peace.

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CONTENTS.	
	PAGE
EDITORIALS	73-76
More Mischief of the Big Battle Fleet Cruise—Plan to Promote Mutual International Acquaintance—Irish Opposition to the Arbitration Treaty with Great Britain—Peace Day in the Schools—The New Field Secretaryship.	
Notice of the Annual Meeting	76
EDITORIAL NOTES	76-78
The Duma and the Navy—Peace Society of Southern California—The Kaiser's Letter—Is it a Peace Society?—Students' Peace Movement—The Presbyterian General Assembly.	
NEWS FROM THE FIELD	78-79
BREVITIES	79-80
GENERAL ARTICLES:	
Is Japan a Menace to the United States? J. H. DeForest, D.D.	81-84
Some Fallacies of Militarism. Chas. E. Jefferson, D.D.	84-86
The Great British Nation Frightened of a Ghost! Dr. Robert Spence Watson.	86-87
Safety of the Republic Does Not Lie in Professional Soldiers Trained to Kill. Hon. Isaac R. Sherwood.	87-88
The Churches and the Big Navy Craze	88-89
Why Don't They Stop the Wicked War Talk? Rev. R. E. M. Alpine.	90
Philadelphia Friends' Remonstrance Against Increase of the Navy	91
For the Sake of Peace! Erving Winslow.	91-92
To the Representatives of Leading Business Organizations and Others. Mononk Conference Circular	92
NEW BOOKS	92-93
International Arbitration and Peace Lecture Bureau	93

## More Mischief of the Big Battle Fleet Cruise.

The big "battle fleet" has completed its cruise around South America and arrived on the coast of California. Its journey has been described, notably by the *Congregationalist* of Boston, as a "peaceful victory," because it has overcome all the material difficulties and obstacles which supposedly confronted it, and because "the peace of the world has been undisturbed by its movements."

This latter is a curious bit of reasoning by which to justify the cruise. Nobody expected the peace of the world to be immediately broken by its progress. Everybody certainly is glad that all the brilliant demonstrations with which the fleet was welcomed by the various South American cities were friendly. Nothing less than this was expected. Etiquette always does that much, whatever may be the unspoken thoughts behind. So, too, everybody is glad that the earthquakes and tornadoes and tropical storms behaved themselves and let the fleet go by without destruction. Nobody expected the God of Peace to sink the big ships beneath the waves. That is not his way of attaining his ends.

But what the *Congregationalist* and other journals

of that type fail to see, or deliberately and purposely keep out of sight, is the effect of the spectacular cruise in inflaming the imaginations of the peoples visited, as well as those of our own people, and thus promoting the building and enlargement of navies and keeping up the insane rivalry of naval armament with which all the maritime powers are so sorely afflicted. Does the *Congregationalist* imagine that because this fruit does not appear full grown while the fleet is in a harbor and its big guns are blurring out their bellowing message to the multitudes of spectators on the shore, it will therefore not appear at all? Thousands of boys and young men at Rio Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, Valparaiso, Callao and other cities visited, will have gone home from the spectacle on fire with excitement, and saying to themselves: "There is nothing great but navy. There is no security without a big navy. Our country must also build big warships, if it does not wish to be wiped from the face of the earth." The final mischief of the cruise to the South American countries cannot now be estimated, but it will come in time.

The effect of the arrival of the fleet on our Pacific coast, and the booming of its big guns in target practice, has been to make the people delirious all the way from San Diego to Portland and Seattle. Such a craze has rarely taken possession of any section of our people. At all the ports where the fleet is to call, demonstrations are being prepared on the most extraordinary scale. If Jesus Christ himself, with his twelve apostles, were to come in person to San Francisco, his reception would probably be tame and spiritless alongside the wild and shouting joy with which the big fleet will be received. The California coast men believe, or act as if they believed, that they have been saved, by the effect of the fleet, from an early terrible invasion by Japan. They are upbraiding Congress for what they call its "obdurate apathy" in regard to the increase of the navy. Here is a sample of the way in which the California papers, almost without exception, write of the subject. The Los Angeles *Examiner*, quoting the vagaries of Congressman Hobson, gives these as "startling facts":

"Japan has ordered \$125,000,000 worth of warships since her war with Russia. She has added five divisions to her army and doubled her military activities. She has just bought from our American factories 750,000 rifles. She can put 200,000 trained soldiers on board transport ships in four days. The Japanese could land 400,000 soldiers on the Pacific